

aquatic organisms swim in, estrogens are particularly concerning. In a review of the literature, fish were found to be particularly susceptible to these endocrine disrupting chemicals. Intersexed fish are found around the nation and even at a wastewater treatment plant in the Nation's Capital. In this District of Columbia study, female eggs were found in over 80 percent of the small mouth bass male reproductive organs.

Unused and expired pharmaceuticals are a threat to our homes, families, communities, and the environment. Sporadic take back events are not sufficient. DEA Administrator Michele M. Leonhart recently stated that the 309 tons of pills collected at two recent community-funded take-back events "represents a clear need for a convenient way to rid homes of unwanted or expired prescription drugs."

Public safety organizations and medical organizations have called for expanded drug takeback programs. The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA) senior vice president and chief medical officer, Allan Korn, M.D., stated that "Unused prescription medicines that remain in homes can be misused or abused if they get in the wrong hands of children, family or friends," and commended, "providing a safe and easy way for Americans to drop off their unnecessary prescription drugs."

The bill I introduce today would help solve these serious environmental, public health, and public safety concerns by providing Americans with a convenient way to safely dispose of their pharmaceuticals. Producer responsibility and stewardship is the backbone of this legislation. Simply put, producers must take responsibility for their product beyond the initial manufacture and sale. By establishing a national drug take back program financed by producers, this legislation will help reduce the supply of unused medications across the country and prevent the entry of pharmaceuticals into the water supply.

In addition, this legislation establishes a commission of stakeholders to investigate risks, causes, and potential solutions of pharmaceutical contaminants in the environment and waterways. Using this information, the Commission will develop a strategy that will prevent pharmaceutical contaminants from polluting our waterways and environments from cradle-to-grave.

Without a safe means of disposing our pharmaceuticals, we risk our public health, our public safety, and our environment. We cannot wait any longer for action.

#### REFLECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2011*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, on this tenth anniversary of the attacks on our country on September 11, 2001, I simply want to pay tribute to the American people, and to our country, and what it stands for: our enduring commitment to the freedoms we cherish, to liberty and democracy, and to our system of government and our way of life.

The attacks on 9/11 against the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon here

in Washington, and over the skies of Pennsylvania, took nearly 3,000 lives. It was the worst attack against the homeland since Pearl Harbor, and a higher death toll was inflicted on 9/11 than even on that date in 1941 "that will live in infamy," as Franklin Roosevelt memorialized for the nation.

On this 9/11, our sole responsibilities are the simple, sacred acts of remembrance and rededication: remembrance of those whose lives were taken, and rededication to our country and its future.

Those who perished will never be forgotten; their names are called out every year. And if anything, American patriotism is stronger than ever.

The 9/11 attacks were directed at our freedoms, our way of life, and modern civilization itself. It was an assault against American leadership in the world, against the ideals that have guided us since the founding of the Republic, and against the rule of law and any sense of morality.

But the fact is that those responsible for 9/11 could never—and will never—defeat the United States of America. No act of terrorism can overcome the spirit of the American people and our pursuit of our destiny.

Our resolve from that terrible day was clear: to pursue and defeat those who perpetrated this evil, and to make sure they can never again threaten the United States of America and those who live here.

As we commemorate the tenth anniversary of 9/11, we must note that the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have now lasted longer than the Civil War and World War II combined. We have suffered substantial casualties—over 6,300 dead and 35,000 injured in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. The financial cost of the two wars is over \$1.2 trillion—nearly equal to this year's Federal budget deficit. President Bush did not ask the American people for a tax increase to finance these wars, so we have not only a legacy of great human casualties, but also one of immense financial debt.

The American involvement in the war in Iraq is drawing to a close, and I support President Obama's stated intention to remove all American combat forces by year's end.

But I also believe it past time to end our involvement in Afghanistan. We should bring our troops home now. There is nothing more for our forces to achieve there. There are other fronts in the war on terror, such as Pakistan, Yemen, and Sudan, and we need to continue our efforts to combat violent extremists in those countries. But there is no overriding purpose served by continuing military involvement in Afghanistan. Let us leave Afghanistan to its people, and reserve the right to strike at any foe arising from Afghanistan that poses a threat to our country and its people.

As a nation we grieve for those whose lives were so brutally taken on 9/11. We honor their memory, and we support their families. And I hope that all our military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan will be brought home to us very soon.

HONORING SAMUEL MORRISON EVANS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel Morrison Evans. Samuel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 87, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Samuel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Samuel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Samuel has earned 65 merit badges and spent countless hours volunteering at the Cameron Food Pantry and with the American Legion. Samuel has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Samuel planned and constructed landscaping around Parkview Elementary in Cameron, Missouri. Samuel also designed and painted murals inside the school gymnasium to make the room more appealing to the student population.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Samuel Morrison Evans for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MRS. HELEN W. SOGGS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mrs. Helen W. Soggs, a longtime, active member of the Greater Cleveland community.

Helen was born on March 4, 1921, as a first generation American, in Cleveland, Ohio. At the age of four, her family moved to Cleveland's Old Brooklyn neighborhood. She attended Oak Park School, Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School and James Ford Rhodes High School. Following her high school graduation, in 1939, Helen enrolled in typing and shorthand classes at the Dyke School of Commerce.

On May 4, 1941, Helen married Kenneth Soggs. Because of Kenneth's job as a construction equipment operator, the young couple frequently relocated throughout the onset of World War II before returning to Old Brooklyn. During the War, in 1942, Helen became the first woman to be hired by Republic Steel; she worked as a "scale girl" for three years.

Following the War, Helen and Kenneth started their family and had two sons. The Soggs family would eventually settle in Seven Hills, Ohio. Kenneth and Helen became involved in family-owned furniture stores, including Parma Home Appliance and Pleasant Valley Furniture. Helen would later work for Higbee's on their furniture customer service team. She retired in 1986.

Helen was an involved member of the Greater Cleveland community. She was a parishioner of St. Columbkille Catholic Church and an active member of her ladies mission circle. She was involved with the Seven Hills Golden Agers, St. Columbkille Golden Agers, Justo Lane Club and was a longtime volunteer as an election day poll worker.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Mrs. Helen W. Soggs. I offer my condolences to her sons, Loree and Jim, her eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

#### HONORING DAKOTA MEYER

#### HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, the small community of Columbia in south central Kentucky is not unlike many of the rural areas of America that have given of their best young men and women to guarantee our freedom. As of today, however, Columbia has the distinction of being the birthplace of Dakota Meyer, only the third living recipient and the first Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Today, President Barack Obama will award Dakota Meyer the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. He will receive the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions while serving as a member of Marine Embedded Training Team 2-8, Regional Corps Advisory Command 3-7, in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He and his family will join the President at the White House to commemorate his example of selfless service.

The Medal of Honor is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who distinguish themselves with meritorious conduct involving great personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his or her comrades, and the action must have involved risk of life. There must be incontestable proof of the performance of the meritorious conduct, and each recommendation for the award must be considered on the standard of extraordinary merit.

On September 8, 2009 an Afghan battalion was set to go to a village in the Ganjgal Valley. According to the plan, Meyer was to stay with the vehicles near the mouth of the valley and the Afghan soldiers and their U.S. advisers would walk into the village from there. But as the lead of the column approached the village more than 50 insurgents fired from positions on mountains surrounding the valley and from within the village. The troops were trapped.

Back at the vehicles, Meyer heard the firing. When requests for airstrikes and permission to drive into the valley were repeatedly denied, Meyer set himself in the turret of a Humvee and rode straight into the firefight, taking fire from all directions. He went in not once, but five times, trying to rescue his comrades and taking to foot in an effort to locate his team. During about six hours of chaotic fighting, he took out eight Taliban militants and provided cover for Afghan and U.S. servicemen to escape the ambush, according to a Marine

Corps account of the events. Meyer saved the lives of 13 U.S. troops and 23 Afghan soldiers.

I join Dakota Meyer's hometown of Columbia, Kentucky in pride as they celebrate this rare distinction for their native son. Meyer joins the ranks of a small company, who in the face of adversity rise to the occasion and do what needs to be done regardless of the consequences. His heroic actions reflect the values taught and practiced in small communities throughout the heart of America.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 706 I was inadvertently recorded as voting "nay."

Please let the permanent record reflect that I support H.J. Res. 77 and my vote should be recorded as "aye."

I support H.J. Res. 77 because Congress should not increase the debt limit until additional substantial cuts are made to the Federal budget.

#### IN HONOR OF MR. JAY WILLIAMS

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Jay Williams, who has recently been appointed as the Department of Labor's Executive Director of the Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers by President Obama.

Mr. Williams was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio. He attended Youngstown State University and studied finance. After graduating, he began working with banks around the Youngstown area. He continued working in the banking industry as an examiner for the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

Upon leaving the financial industry, Mr. Williams became the director of Youngstown's Community Development Agency. He served as the leader of Youngstown 2010. This ongoing initiative plans for a Youngstown that is "smaller, greener, cleaner, makes efficient use of its available resources, and capitalizes on its many cultural amenities and business advantages."

In 2005, Mr. Williams was elected as the Mayor of Youngstown. He was the first African American elected as Youngstown's mayor and was also the first independent candidate elected since 1922. Mr. Williams was re-elected in 2009. On July 6, 2011, President Obama announced Mr. Williams as the Executive Director of the Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers; he began on August 8, 2011.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. Jay Williams as he begins his tenure as the Executive Director of the Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers. I extend my congratulations and well wishes as he embarks on this new endeavor.

#### SCHOOL VIOLENCE AND BULLYING

#### HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss an important issue that affects too many young people across this country. As many students look forward to the new school year, there are too many who fear returning because their school environment is made unsafe by bullying. Bullying is not a rite of passage and no child should be afraid to go to school. An unsafe school environment, including one made unsafe by daily bullying and harassment, leads to increased absences and decreased graduation rates.

A majority of parents, students, and educators report that bullying and harassment are issues of major concern. To combat this problem, I have introduced the Safe Schools Improvement Act which would help schools and school districts develop and improve anti-bullying and anti-harassment initiatives. Fortunately, others are also beginning to address this issue and are seeking ways to address bullying and make schools safer.

One effort to combat bullying in our schools is the "be a STAR (Show Tolerance And Respect) program" being led by World Wrestling Entertainment, WWE, in collaboration with the Creative Coalition, the National Education Association's Health Information Network, NEA HIN, Stomp Out Bullying, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, and the National School Climate Center amongst others. This program provides teachers across America with a comprehensive toolset to teach children an anti-bullying message. 'be a STAR' is providing an easily accessible teaching aid written by the NEA HIN and educator Dr. Fran Prolman that meets National Education Standards. This teaching aid is available at no cost to educators and is designed to promote positive and equitable social environments for students within and beyond the classroom setting. The alliance is also offering a "Start Your Own Be a STAR" Chapter toolkit encouraging students to spread the anti-bullying message in their schools and communities. The be a STAR Alliance has also been instrumental in encouraging students to seek out resources or proper intervention to help protect victims of bullying and other forms of intolerance through its 'be a STAR' pledge.

I had the opportunity to participate in anti-bullying events with WWE Superstars Rey Mysterio and Eve, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, American Idol Winner Jordan Sparks, actor Tim Daly, Dancing with the Stars' Chelsie Hightower and many more. I joined them at the Algin Sutton Community Center to discuss with children the issue of bullying and to deliver a strong anti-bullying message of tolerance and respect. The reaction from the more than 500 children and families that participated was very positive. Through its participation and leadership in the alliance, WWE has demonstrated a real commitment to raise awareness about bullying, and is working in local communities around the country and overseas to combat bullying in our schools.

The anti-bullying movement has a new champion in the 'be a STAR' Alliance, co-